

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6572

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3949

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD AND
DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, IR

SUB: GOI INVITATIONS TO VISIT IRAN

1. IN DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH'S LETTER TO ME OF 13 APRIL, HE DISCUSSES POSSIBILITY OF VISITS BY SECRETARY RUMSFELD AND HIMSELF TO IRAN. IN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH WHETHER IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OPERATING ON TWO LEVELS, WE HAVE NOW ASCERTAINED FROM THE IMPERIAL COURT THAT THE GOI INVITATION TO SECRETARY RUMSFELD, MENTIONED IN DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH'S LETTER, IS A STANDING ONE TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SINCE NO SECDEF HAS VISITED IRAN IN THE LAST THREE YEARS AT LEAST. THIS IS SIMILAR TO THE OPEN-ENDED INVITATION EXTENDED EARLIER TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. GENERAL TOUFANIAN'S INVITATION TO DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH IS A PERSONAL ONE AND TAKES ON SOME URGENCY IN THE SENSE THAT BOTH THE SHAH AND GENERAL TOUFANIAN ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH IRAN IN LIGHT OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AREA. THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND THAT YOU GENTLEMEN RESPOND GRACIOUSLY TO THESE INVITATIONS EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE UNABLE TO COMMIT YOURSELVES AS TO PRECISE TIMING FOR THE VISITS.

2. THE REQUEST RAISED IN PARA ONE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH'S LETTER OF 13 APRIL HAS BEEN SATISFIED.

3. WITH BEST REGARDS, DICK.

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HELMS

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